

A NEW BITING CULICOIDES FROM SALTMARSHES IN THE
SOUTHEASTERN STATES.

By DAVID G. HALL,

Insects Affecting Man and Animals, U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

One of the most important species of *Culicoides* occurring along the southeastern Atlantic coast of the United States is the form herein described as new. Heretofore, it has been generally determined as *Culicoides furens* Poey¹, a species based upon female specimens collected in Cuba.

Through the courtesy of Dr. R. H. Painter some male specimens of *Culicoides* were forwarded to the sand fly laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology at Charleston, S. C. These were collected by him in Honduras, Central America, and were determined for him as *Culicoides furens* Poey by Dr. W. A. Hoffman, a recognized American authority on this group. They differed from male specimens collected along the southeastern Atlantic coast of the United States. The latter is described at this time in order that we may have a usable name for this economic pest.

Since the original description of *Culicoides furens* by Poey was based upon female specimens, the status of this species is a matter of conjecture. Under the circumstances, it seems best to regard a species occurring in the type locality as the true *furens*. It is the writer's opinion that the specimens from Central America may represent a second species, and that from the South Atlantic States a third one. We are confronted with two species which differ in the terminalia, both of which are from areas distantly located from the type locality. The species herein described occurs in areas quite unlike the ecological conditions found in Cuba.

***Culicoides dovei*, n. sp.**

A small blackish gray species with mottled thorax and wings, and banded legs, most commonly collected in those coastal areas having grass or mangrove marshes near brackish water and inlets.

Female.—About 1.50 mm. in length; head with eyes narrowly separated; palpi yellowish and as long as the proboscis; antennae shorter than the length of head and mesonotum combined, grayish yellow. Thorax fuscous, with gray pollinosity and with numerous small spots the shape and size of which vary in different specimens, these connected medially when enlarged; scutellum fuscous. Legs grayish yellow, femora and tibiae medially with darker bands. Wings spotted, the pattern quite distinct, stigmal spot large and definite, with some macrochaetae.

Male.—Colored as in female; antennae plumose; hypopygia as shown in figure one.

¹Poey, 1853, Mem. sobre la Hist. de la Isla Cuba, Vol. 1, p. 237 (Oecacta).

Alcoholic specimens lose the grayish polinosity, giving the specimens a dirty yellowish appearance. The above is based upon freshly collected material. This form differs from the Central American form in the structure of certain internal morphological details of the male hypopygia.

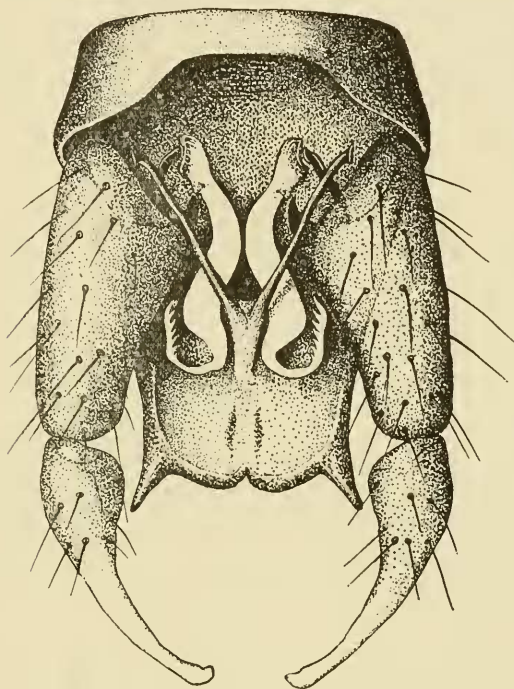


Figure 1.—*Culicoides dovei* Hall, Ventral view of male terminalia.

Described from a long series of both males and females, the females collected while biting warm-blooded animals, and also in light traps and by sweeping along the edges of grass and mangrove marshes in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. It occurs in enormous numbers in the mangrove swamps in Florida during most of the year, and in few numbers farther north, where it is an important species during the summer months.

Holotype.—Male, from Brunswick, Ga., Cat. No. 43972, U. S. National Museum.

Allotype and paratypes, as above.
